

SEP 1964

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Ex-SS General Spared Italians, Court Hears

German-Born Former OSS Agent Says Man
Accused in Jewish Murders Saved Lives

MUNICH (AP)—A German-born American who identified himself as a former OSS agent said Monday that ex-SS Gen. Karl Wolff put the skids under Nazi plans for a last-minute slaughter of Italian civilians in closing stages of World War II.

Gero von Schulze-Gaevernitz told a court trying Wolff on charges of complicity in the murder of 300,000 Polish Jews that Wolff squelched plans for the murder of numerous Italian political leaders by retreating German forces as the war neared an end.

Among those saved by Wolff, the witness continued, was Ferruccio Parri, premier of the first Italian postwar cabinet from June 21 to Dec. 5, 1945, and now a member of the Italian Senate.

Von Schulze-Gaevernitz, who now lives in Brazil, said he first came into contact with Wolff when the defendant, 64, negotiated with Allen Dulles in Switzerland over the surrender of German troops in Italy.

Adviser to Dulles

Von Schulze-Gaevernitz said he was an OSS adviser to Dulles at the time. Dulles retired a year ago as director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

In addition to being the leading SS officer in Italy, Wolff also was in charge of the Gestapo in that country, headed the personal staff of SS boss Heinrich Himmler and was Himmler's personal liaison man to Adolf Hitler. Wolff says he did not know until the war ended what happened to the Jews in German-occupied Europe.

Von Schulze-Gaevernitz, 63, testified Dulles was skeptical of Wolff's claims that he could arrange the surrender of German armies in Italy and demanded as proof of his power that he release from an SS prison Parri and another Italian underground leader, a Maj. Usiniani.

Swiss Delivery

Wolff, the witness continued, had Parri and Usiniani delivered to Dulles in Switzerland and saw to it that lesser known captured Italian partisan leaders were not harmed by the SS or Gestapo.

The witness said Dulles once asked Wolff if he expected any Allied help after the war and quoted Wolff as answering:

"I have never committed any war crimes and consequently have no reason to ask for any guarantees of any kind."

On hearing this, the prosecution asked Wolff why he had said earlier that U.S. authorities had given him vague offers of postwar help.

Wolff answered that it may have been Swiss intermediaries who "perhaps" had made such offers to him.